

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 227414
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY SOAS:I G TRAGEN:MAB
APPROVED BY ARA:V P VAKY
ARA:F MC NEIL
S/S-O: J THYDEN

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O 080050Z SEP 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR/CHARGE FROM VAKY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, NU, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN REQUEST FOR MFM ON NICARAGUA

1. DEBATE ON VENEZUELAN REQUEST FOR A MEETING OF
CONSULTATION OF FOREIGN MINISTERS (MFM) ON SITUATION IN
NICARAGUA WAS INITIATED ON SEPTEMBER 7 AND WAS DELAYED TO
SEPTEMBER 12 TO PERMIT VARIOUS DELEGATIONS TO OBTAIN
INSTRUCTIONS. FYI: WE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL TO OBTAIN
FURTHER DELAY OF CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR CONVOCA-
TION OF MFM IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE UNCERTAINTIES AND PROVIDE
TIME TO SEE IF CENTRAL AMERICAN EFFORTS WILL PROSPER. WE
BELIEVE CENTRAL AMERICAN INITIATIVE WOULD BE KEY TO SUC-

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CESSFUL EFFORTS TO OBTAIN DELAY. END FYI.

2. WE ASK THAT YOU APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENT AT HIGHEST
APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO REQUEST THAT THEIR AMBASSADOR TO THE
OAS BE INSTRUCTED TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL DELAY OF A WEEK
BEYOND SEPTEMBER 12. TELL THEM THAT WE BELIEVE THIS DELAY
IS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE CENTRAL

AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS REQUIRE ADDITIONAL TIME TO CONSULT
AMONG THEMSELVES ABOUT APPROACHES TO NICARAGUA NOW UNDERWAY
AND THAT PREMATURE ACTION BY THE OAS COULD PRECLUDE

EFFECTIVE ACTION BY THE CENTRAL AMERICANS. THE REQUEST
ITSELF TO POSTPONE NEED NOT REPEAT NOT BE COUCHED IN
TERMS OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN INITIATIVE.

3. WE ALSO REQUEST THAT YOU ASK HOW THEY PLAN TO VOTE IF
THE MATTER IS BROUGHT TO A HEAD SEPTEMBER 12. WE HAVE
SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE VENEZUELAN REQUEST FOR MFM UNDER
ARTICLE 59 BUT ARE CAREFULLY APPRAISING SITUATION IN
ORDER TO ARRIVE, THROUGH CONSULTATIONS, AT MOST APPRO-
PRIATE COURSE OF ACTION.

4. FOR SAN JOSE: WE RECOGNIZE CARAZO'S SENSITIVITY TO
RAISING CENTRAL AMERICAN INITIATIVE AS REASON FOR DELAY
AND HAVE DELIBERATELY COUCHED PROPOSAL IN PARA 2 TO AVOID
THIS PROBLEM. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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